



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 29, 2015**

**CONTACT**

Elizabeth Guyton

[elizabeth.guyton@state.ma.us](mailto:elizabeth.guyton@state.ma.us)

### **Governor Baker Appoints New MCCA Board Members, Pauses BCEC Expansion for Review of Economic Feasibility**

**BOSTON** – Governor Charlie Baker today announced the administration’s appointments to the board of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) and a pause on the expansion plans for the Boston Convention Center and Exhibition Center (BCEC).

“We are pausing the expansion of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in order for the new members of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority to conduct a thoughtful analysis and determine how these resources can best benefit our economy, job creation, and the development of Boston’s Seaport District,” **said Governor Baker**. “The environment has changed greatly in the five years since this proposal was first introduced, and the Seaport district has experienced an economic boom. Plunging ahead now, when the data on the expansion’s feasibility is mixed, combined with the change of leadership at the MCCA would be irresponsible given the vast amounts of taxpayer dollars necessary to not only build but operate the expanded facility in the face of pressing financial needs outside of the booming Seaport District.”

“The Administration appreciates the work of all the previous board members and thanks them for their service to the Commonwealth,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “We look forward to collaborating with the new members as they get to work.”

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority consists of 13 members – 9 appointed by the Governor who serve at the pleasure of the Governor and 2 members appointed by the Mayor of Boston. Additionally, the Secretary of Administration and Finance and the Collector-Treasurer of Boston (or their designees)

serve as ex-officio members.

The administration's appointments to the MCCA are as follows and are effective immediately:

- **Cindy Brown**, *Massachusetts Visitors Industry Council Seat*
- **Barbara Capuano**, *At-Large Seat*
- **Andrew Crane**, *Resident of Hampden County Seat*
- **Karen Johnson**, *At-Large Seat*
- **Amy Latimer**, *At-Large Seat*
- **Gregg Lisciotti**, *At-Large Seat*
- **John McDonnell**, *At-Large Seat*
- **Paul Sacco**, *Massachusetts Lodging Association Seat*
- **Frederic Wittman**, *Resident of Cambridge Seat*

The remaining seats on the 13-member MCCA board include:

- **Kristen Lepore**, *Secretary of Administration and Finance, or a designee*
- **Ronald Rakow**, *a designee of the CFO and Collector-Treasurer of Boston*
- **Jack Hart**, *a City of Boston mayoral appointee and resident of South Boston*
- **Michelle Consalvo**, *a City of Boston mayoral appointee*

**About Cindy Brown, Massachusetts Visitors Industry Council Seat:**

Cindy Brown has served as General Manager and CEO of Boston Duck Tours since 1997, and in addition to overseeing the company's sales, marketing, and operations represents Boston Duck Tours at industry events across the country. She has served on the boards of directors for the National Tour Association and the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau since 2003. Ms. Brown is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College with a bachelor's degree in economics.

**About Barbara Capuano, At-Large Seat:**

Barbara Capuano has served as Tax Manager for Raphael and Raphael LLP since 2006 and previously with UHY Advisors, LLC, supervising the review and preparation of corporate, partnership, and individual tax returns. Ms. Capuano holds a M.B.A. in Accounting from Babson College and a B.A. from Boston State College. She is currently a member of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority.

**About Andrew Crane, Resident of Hampden County Seat:**

Andrew Crane is CEO of A. Crane Construction in Chicopee, MA, overseeing the design

of custom homes, additions, and renovations for homeowners and commercial spaces. Under Mr. Crane's tenure, A. Crane Construction has been recognized as an industry leader through its certification as a green energy building contractor and received the Home Builders Association of Massachusetts Legend of the Industry Award and State of Massachusetts Builder of the Year Award. Mr. Crane is a member of the Massachusetts Home Builders Association Board of Directors.

**About Karen Johnson, At-Large Seat:**

Karen Johnson manages the analytics division of The Debt Exchange, where she is responsible for relationship management and new client engagement while providing valuations for nearly \$1 billion in real estate debt assets quarterly. Prior to DebtX, Ms. Johnson served as Director of Sales at Standard and Poor's Real Estate Risk Management group. She received her B.A. in Economics from Yale University and studied at the New York University Stern School of Business.

**About Amy Latimer, At-Large Seat:**

Amy Latimer has served as the President of TD Garden since 2013 and has held extensive senior leadership and marketing roles at the Garden for the past two decades. As president, Ms. Latimer is responsible for day-to-day operations at one of the country's highest-grossing entertainment arenas and oversaw the arena's two-year, \$70 million technology infrastructure upgrade. She holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Rhode Island.

**About Gregg Lisciotti, At-Large Seat:**

Gregg Lisciotti is president and founder of Lisciotti Development Corporation, a real estate investment and development company based in Leominster, MA. Since its establishment, Lisciotti Development Corporation has been involved in the acquisition, development and ownership of real estate projects throughout the United States. Mr. Lisciotti previously served on the MCCA Board of Directors under Governor Mitt Romney and recently completed his tenure as Chairman of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees. He is a graduate of Bentley University with a bachelor's degree in finance.

**About John McDonnell, At-Large Seat:**

John McDonnell is currently Managing Director International of Fifth Generation, Inc., Makers of Tito's Handmade Vodka, after his many outstanding achievements as President International and COO of Patrón Spirits International. With his years of launching and marketing a number of successful global spirits brands, he has become

a highly regarded leader in his industry and a respected contributor to public service. Mr. McDonnell holds a B.S.B.A. from Suffolk University where he is also a member of the Board of Trustees. He also serves on the Board of the Boston Zoning Commission.

**About Paul Sacco, Massachusetts Lodging Association Seat:**

Paul Sacco is the President and CEO of the Massachusetts Lodging Association, and previously directed operations and sales for Belvedere Hotels Ltd. and Omni Hotels. From 2002-2007, Mr. Sacco served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT). He is a member of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Board, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, serves on the Advisory Commission on Travel & Tourism, and in 2013 received the State Tourism Award from Governor Patrick for his unique contributions to the growth and vitality of the state's tourism industry.

**About Frederic Wittmann, Resident of Cambridge Seat:**

Frederic Wittmann is a Senior Managing Director of the Boston office of HFF with more than 30 years of experience in commercial real estate, including investment sales and finance. During the course of his career with HFF, Mr. Wittmann has completed in excess of \$10 billion in commercial real estate transactions. He earned his B.A. from Tufts University.

###